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Enrollment

1. In 1949 the enrollment at the Royal Hungarian University of Technical Science was about five thousand students. This figure includes both graduate and undergraduate students. I would estimate the number of candidates for the doctorate to have been not in excess of 100. The university conferred degrees in the multiple branches of engineering discipline such as chemical, mechanical, civil, electrical, and architectural.

Quality of the School

2. It is most difficult for me to compare one department with another. [REDACTED] would feel that the [REDACTED] was the best. But in sincerity I feel that each department was exceptional in its field. It was an accepted fact in Hungary that the University was considered one of the better technical schools in Europe prior to World War II. The Swiss engineering school, Eidgenossische Technische Hochschule, which to the best of my knowledge is considered the finest in Europe, gave both undergraduates and graduates of our university equivalent and total transfer credit. Although a science degree at the Royal Hungarian University of Technical Science was predicated on four academic years, it was unlikely that many students would complete the basic requirements in less than five years.

The University Staff in 1949

3. I would estimate that the staff in 1949 consisted of the following members and numbers: There were about 50 professors, 50 to 60 associate professors, 100 assistant professors, and about 400 instructors and teaching assistants [the LAST figure is a rough estimate.]

Tuition Scholarships and Entrance Requirements

4. In 1949 the tuition was 150 forints per semester with the semester system in operation on the same basis as in the US. The semesters were of four and a half months' duration beginning in early September and terminating in mid-June. The university also held summer sessions each year.

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42

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- 2 -

5. There were no free textbooks, each student being required to purchase his own. As I recall, the university conferred a number of scholarships in 1949. The monetary consideration involved in these scholarships covered tuition only. These scholarships were bestowed on students who had attained outstanding scholarship or in some cases to outstanding students who couldn't meet the tuition costs. After World War II these scholarships were referred to as university scholarships and bore no other names or titles.

6. Entrance requirements by the university were based primarily on scholarship attainment at the gymnasium. The entrance requirements were the same for all students, whether they sought discipline in science or in the humanities.

7. [REDACTED]

8. [REDACTED] Physical Chemistry, which was actually a course in instrumentation. The purpose of this course was to familiarize chemistry students with laboratory procedure which included instruction in molecular weights, optical measurements, electrical measurements, spectroscopy, and the use of laboratory equipment. [REDACTED] there was sufficient equipment and laboratory facilities for each student.

Quality of Instruction

9. [REDACTED] the quality of instruction at the Royal Hungarian University of Technical Science was much better than at the University of Southern California /US/ at both schools. [REDACTED] the general technical background and training of the Hungarian professors, plus their travels and study at other foreign universities prior to World War II, made them more knowledgeable in a broader field of subjects.

10. Much of the post doctoral foreign research by Hungarian scholars prior to World War II was taken in the UK, Switzerland, and Germany. When World War II ended, foreign scholarship and fellowship programs for both teachers and students were critically curtailed. The very few recipients of such embassments were very carefully checked by the Hungarian authorities. It was generally understood that anyone who made application for foreign study immediately became a suspect. I cannot recall a single Hungarian undergraduate student who was permitted to participate in any foreign scholarship after World War II; nor can I recall any foreign exchange students from the West [REDACTED] university in the post World War II years.

11. With reference to the capabilities of Hungarian students as compared to US students, I would say that there was very little difference; however, the students at the Royal Hungarian University of Technical Science received a much broader education. This university has high standards comparable to the better technical universities in the US, and therefore attracts only the better students.

Library Facilities and Source Materials

12. We had a central library for all departments of the university but it was not adequate for research students after World War II. In addition, individual departments had their own libraries, but Hungarian scientific publications were sadly lacking. [REDACTED] ordered about 20 journals and periodicals from the US and the UK. We relied quite heavily on these publications plus whatever German works we could get. Many of the graduate and a number of the undergraduate students could read English and, as I recall, they were highly interested in the US and UK publications.

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## CONFIDENTIAL/SECURITY INFORMATION

- 3 -

13. Soviet publications were available in each of the libraries but very few Hungarian students could read Russian. As I mentioned, there was very little original Hungarian research published after World War II, but I do recall two Hungarian journals.
- a. Kemikusoki Lepja (a chemical journal, published in Budapest in 1948)
  - b. Magyar Technika (an engineering journal published in Budapest in 1948).

Research

14. There were no specific governmental decrees [redacted] which placed restrictions upon independent research at the university; however, each department received research requirements and projects from industry. Since industry was nationalized, it is logical to presume that the requirements submitted to the university by industry were actually handed down by the Hungarian Government. 25X1
15. A number of the professors at the university were honorary members of the Academy of Science, the Hungarian name for this academy being Tudamanyosakademia. This academy was located near the parliament building in Budapest. So far as I know the academy didn't inaugurate research projects but served as a meeting place where various professors could read papers before the scholarly body.
16. The Ministry of National Research is now [August 1953] referred to as the Ministry of Industry. In 1947 when all industry was nationalized I understood that the Ministry of Industry assumed the role of leadership in introducing research on a national scale.

Administration

17. The university, which covers almost 50 acres, was damaged slightly during World War II but was totally repaired in 1949. The Chief Administrator is the Rector. The Rector in 1949 was Dr Zoltan Csuros, a gentleman then in his late forties. He was a short stocky individual, duly elected by the body of professors and not politically appointed. Dr Csuros, prior to becoming rector, was full professor of Chemical Engineering at the university where he taught and did research in organic chemicals and textile plastics.

18. [redacted]

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